

## Yamaha PS1152 Power Stage Series Drumkit

Yamaha has finally joined the parade by producing "power-sized" drums for the USA. The power sizes are available in all three Yamaha lines: *Recording*, *Tour*, and *Stage Series*. Here, we take a look at the brand new *Power Stage Series* drums.

The *Stage Series* shells are made of mahogany, with an interior ply of natural beech. Bearing edges are shaped at a 45-degree angle. This line is individualized by its triangular-shaped springless lugs, and all the drums are quite lightweight. Components of the *Power Stage* kit are: 16 x 22 bass drum, 10 x 12 and 11 x 13 tomtoms, 16 X 16 floor tom, 6 1/2 x 14 snare drum, plus 5 *Series* hardware.

### Bass Drum

The bass drum has 16 lugs with T-handle tuners for the most part, but features key rods at the bottom two lugs on both sides, which make for easier tuning and pedal mounting. The hoops are wooden, and painted in a matte black finish. The hoops have been upgraded a bit by the addition of a plastic inlay, and there is also a rubber piece at the bottom of the hoop for pedal mounting.

Yamaha has changed the *Stage* spurs to telescoping outboard ones. The inner leg is held in place using a square-head screw, and it has a convertible spike tip. Forward angle can be varied via a ratchet according to the player's needs. A big improvement over Yamaha's previous disappearing spurs, these new spurs hold the drum very well.

The drum is fitted with a smoothly coated batter head made by Yamaha in Japan. The audience side has a black head which is screened with a large silver Yamaha logo. There is no felt strip included. Without any dampening, the drum had some boom to it. A thin pillow inside helped immensely, and this bass drum had good attack and depth. I don't know how long the Yamaha batter head would last, but I'd change it for a thicker head, anyway. (Note: A 16 x 24 bass drum is also available.)

### Mounting System

Yamaha uses their TH-51W tom holder on this kit. The holder utilizes a sideways, double ball-and-cage system with a hexagonal arm permanently attached to each

ball. The tom-tom brackets have hex openings to accommodate the rods, allowing them to pass through the shell. The brackets lock with a large T-screw, and Yamaha has thoughtfully fitted a nylon bushing inside each bracket. A long down post with memory lock interfaces with a raised square base plate with nylon insert, mounted near the front of the bass drum. The TH-51W is very stable, and affords quite a variety of non-slip angles, along with more than ample height to get those deep toms up and away from the bass drum. This holder can satisfy most anyone's needs, even if it is Yamaha's "budget" model!

### Tom-Toms

The 10 x 12 and 11 x 13 tom-toms have 12 lugs each; the 16 x 16 floor tom has 16 lugs, plus three legs. None of the drums have mufflers. They all have triple-flanged hoops, which appear to have a lower grade of chroming, and they are fitted with Yamaha's own plastic-hooped, smooth-coat heads.

The Yamaha heads give a thinner sound than a Remo *Ambassador*, but the drums do have good volume, resonance, and depth of pitch. Again, I'd change the heads, perhaps to the Remo *Ebony Ambassadors* for a more solid sound. (Yamaha also offers 10 x 10 and 12 x 14 toms in the *Power Stage* line.)

### Snare Drum

A 6 1/2 x 14 seamless, metal-shell snare drum is included with the kit. It has a chrome finish, eight double-ended lugs, and a 20-strand snare unit which is held with glass tape strips, rather than cord. A simple strainer is used here: The throw-off releases from the side and has a fine-tune knob. The butt plate holds the snare-connect tape strips via two small screws. The strainer is efficient and works well. Once again, there is no internal damper, so one must use one's own method of muffling out ring from the metal shell.

The drum is fitted with the smooth-coat head on the batter side, and a thin, transparent head on the bottom. I like no-nonsense drums like this one; it's so much easier to get a good sound. This drum (cataloged 565MA) had a good, crisp tone and gave clear rimshots. Plus, it is capable

of lower-than-normal pitches without sounding too flappy.

### Hardware

Yamaha's 5 *Series* hardware package comes with this kit. The 5 *Series* stands have single-braced tripods and black nylon bushings at their height joints. They are easily transported due to their light weight.

The HS-510 hi-hat has a split footboard and uses a thick black piece of plastic for linkage. Its spring is housed internally and is not adjustable. The inner pull rod is hinged, allowing the stand to fold up in one piece. The cymbal cup has a tilter screw, and there is a hose clamp on the height tube, serving as a memory lock. The stand has very good action and is virtually silent. I would like to see a positioning spur somewhere on it, though.

Two CS-510 cymbal stands are included. They have two adjustable-height tiers, and are capable of wide-stance basing. The ratchet tilter is somewhat small, and I wouldn't really recommend it to hold large ride cymbals. It is sturdy enough for other cymbals, though, and can fold up quite compactly.

The SS-510 snare stand uses a basket design, but it's been dropped a bit to allow seating of deep snare drums. Instead of the usual carriage ring, the basket is closed via a long T-screw at the bottom. A flat-hinge tilter is used to angle the drum. The stand is well balanced, and can hold most any snare drum securely.

Yamaha's FP-510 pedal uses the same design as the 7 *Series* drum pedal. It has a split footboard, and a single expansion spring stretched downward. Tension is adjustable, and the setting can be finalized via lock nuts. A nylon strap is used for linkage. Different footboard angles can be achieved by simply punching new holes in the link strap. The common plate/T-screw method is used to clamp the pedal to the drum, and the clamp plate is serrated for a better grip. The FP-510 is a simple pedal, and has good responsive action.

Yamaha is offering the *Power Stage* kits in black, white, or high-luster red coverings. Each drum has its model number and serial number stamped into the gold logo badge for identification purposes. The kit tested here retails at \$1,095.

The *Power Stage Series* is a good com-

by Bob Saydlowski, Jr.



petitor with Pearl's *Export Deep* and Slingerland's *Spirit* kits. Yamaha has done a professional job in creating a deep set for those who are budget minded, yet performance conscious.



**CALL  
US  
TOLL  
FREE!**  
FOR A  
SUBSCRIPTION  
TO  
**MODERN  
DRUMMER**  
The International Magazine Exclusively For Drummers  
**DIAL  
800-221-1988**

NEW JERSEY  
RESIDENTS  
DIAL  
201-778-1700

Monday thru Friday  
8:30 AM-4:30 PM E.S.T.

OCTOBER 1984

# NEW! GIG RUG™

The only drum rug with a Bass Drum Barrier.

Pat. Pend

from  
L.T. LUG LOCK



"No more creeping bass drum". Gregg Bissonette - "The Master" TV show.  
"Very light and portable". Dave Miller - Woody Herman Band.  
"Like Lug Lock, GIG RUG keeps things in place". Carl Allen - Freddie Hubbard Quintet.  
Also using GIG RUG: Gil Moore - Triumph; Tony Johnson - Commander Cody; Billy West - Leon Russell; Doug Florence - The Pointer Sisters; Mike Baird; Mark Craney.

- 5 1/2 ft. Square - Large enough to go under all your drums and stands.
- Portable - Folds into a 2 ft. roll. Fits in trap case.
- Lightweight - Made of thin, strong, indoor/outdoor carpet.
- 20" Barrier - Allows bass drum to be off-set from center.
- Inexpensive - Why pay more for a rug that doesn't have a bass drum barrier?
- A MUST for the road and one-nighters.

## STOP CHASING YOUR BASS DRUM!!

Send \$49 (US) for GIG RUG (includes handling)  
NY State residents add 7% No C.O.D.'s  
Colors: Red, Brown and Blue



*L.T. Lug Lock, Inc.*

Box 204 Tonawanda, NY 14151

"PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS"

Dealer Inquiries Welcome

# THE SUPER-SOUNDING DRUM

**NEW &  
IMPROVED**



Break the sound barrier with **SYNSONICS**® Drums. With four electronic drum pads — snare, two tom-toms and cymbal — that sound like an entire set.

Use the auto-controls and playback on three separate memories to develop your own rhythms and beats. All from a battery-operated computerized drum system you hook up to your stereo system, head-phones or amplifier.

"Great for professionals who want to add electronic drum sounds to their acoustic drum set. Terrific for students to learn on."

**NEW**—Synsonics stand now available.

*Fred Gretsch*

**ENTERPRISES**

ONE GRETSCH PLAZA  
RIDGELAND, S.C. 29936  
803-726-8144